

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 07493 161543Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15

STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15

AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 OIC-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00

ICAE-00 INRE-00 /153 W

-----113759 161554Z /45

O 161453Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9674

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY FOR MIKE SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, HK, NO

SUBJECT: GATT COUNCIL: HONG KONG COMPLAINT AGAINST
NORWAY

1. HONG KONG DEL HAS TOLD US THAT HE INTENDS TO RAISE
NORWAY DISCRIMINATORY TEXTILE RESTRAINTS AGAINST HONG
KONG AT GATT COUNCIL UNDER ITEM "OTHER BUSINESS."

2. SINCE NORWAY HAS NOT YET SIGNED THE EXTENSION OF THE
MULTI-FIBER ARRANGEMENT, AND HONG KONG'S COMPLAINT CANNOT
BE ENTERTAINED BY TSB, HONG KONG WILL ASK THE COUNCIL
TO ESTABLISH A PANEL UNDER ARTICLE XXIII TO CONSIDER ITS
COMPLAINT.

3. FROM U.S. VIEWPOINT, IT IS FORTUNATE THAT NORWAY
HAS NOT YET ACCEPTED MFA AND THAT THIS DISPUTE CAN BE
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HEARD IN GATT FORUM RATHER THAN TSB. U.S. TSB REP IS
OF OPINION THAT, SHOULD THIS COMPLAINT HAVE BEEN BROUGHT
BEFORE TSB, THORNY QUESTION OF "SMALL MARKETS - MINIMUM
VISIBLE PRODUCTION" WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AGAINST
BACKGROUND OF HIGHLY DUBIOUS NORWAY JUSTIFICATION.
POSSIBLE OUTCOME WOULD BE REFERENCE TO TEXTILES COMMITTEE
WHERE PROTOCOL OF EXTENSION WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO QUESTION.

THIS WE DO NOT NEED.

4. SINCE ITEM IS BEING RAISED UNDER "OTHER BUSINESS" COUNCIL CANNOT MAKE A DECISION AT THIS MEETING ON ESTABLISHING A PANEL, AND HONG KONG, STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO THIS MATTER, WILL ASK THAT COUNCIL CONVENE WITHIN THE NEXT THREE WEEKS TO CONSIDER ITS COMPLAINT.

5. WE RECOMMEND THAT WE SUPPORT HONG KONG'S REQUEST FOR AN EARLY MEETING OF THE GATT COUNCIL. SINCE TWO OTHER ITEMS ON THE MAY 17 COUNCIL AGENDA (EXPORT COST INFLATION INSURANCE SCHEMES AND SPECIFIC DUTIES) MAY NOT BE RESOLVED AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING, AN EARLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL MAY GIVE US TIME TO SEEK AN AGREEMENT ON THOSE ITEMS. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 16 may 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: ETRD, HK, NO, GATT
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